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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/903,749	07/11/2001	Avi Ashkenazi	10466/43	5380

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EXAMINER

CHERNYSHEV, OLGA N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1646

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/903,749	ASHKENAZI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Olga N. Chernyshev	1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 39-43 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 39-43 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>14</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. Claim 39 has been amended and claim 44 has been cancelled as requested in the amendment of Paper No. 17, filed on March 19, 2003. Claims 39-43 are pending in the instant application.

Claims 39-43 are under examination in the instant office action.

2. The Text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Any objection or rejection of record, which is not expressly repeated in this action has been overcome by Applicant's response and withdrawn.

4. Applicant's arguments filed on March 19, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

***Priority***

5. The Declaration of A. Goddard under 37 CFR 1.132 filed on March 19, 2003 is insufficient for awarding the instant application the effective filing date of 09/10/1998 because the utility of the instant PRO211 is established based on its ability to inhibit VEGF stimulated proliferation of adrenal cortical capillary endothelial cells, which was first disclosed in application PCT/US00/04414, filed on 2/22/2000. Applicant's statement that "the gene amplification data, which provide patentable utility for the anti-PRO211 antibodies claimed, were first disclosed in application PCT/US98/18824, filed on September 10, 1998" (page 6,

fourth paragraph of the Response) is not persuasive because the assertion of specific, substantial and credible utility of PRO211 as a marker for cancer is found to be unsubstantiated.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claim fails to include any limitations, which would distinguish the claimed antibodies from those, which occur in nature. In the absence of the hand of man, naturally occurring nucleic acid molecules and proteins are considered non-statutory subject matter. Diamond v. Chakrabarty, 206 USPQ 193 (1980). Additionally, mere purity of a naturally occurring product does not necessarily impart patentability. Ex parte Siddiqui, 156 USPQ 426 (1966). However, when purity results in a new utility, patentability is considered. Merck Co. v. Chase Chemical Co., 273 F. Supp. 68 (1967). Filing of evidence of a new utility imparted by the increased purity of the claimed invention and amendment of the claim to recite a purity limitation, if supported by the specification, is suggested to obviate this rejection. Applicant should point to the basis in the specification for any amendment to the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 1646

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 39-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim 39 is directed to an antibody that binds specifically to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. Claims 40-43 depend from claim 39. The instant specification, as filed, fails to describe an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 to the exclusion of binding to any other protein, for example, other human proteins or other proteins in general. There is no information provided, which would allow one skilled in the art to depict all possible amino acid sequences that lack specific epitopes accountable for specific binding to a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. There is no knowledge in the prior art that would provide guidance for one skilled in the art on how to exclusively distinguish polypeptides that lack specific epitopes of a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. There are no working examples that illustrate how to generate an antibody that binds exclusively to a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 and does not bind to any other polypeptide. Therefore, it would require undue experimentation and making extensive inventive contribution for one skill in the art in order to practice the currently claimed invention.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 39-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 39 is vague and indefinite for recitation of “specifically binds to”. The metes and bounds of the recitation cannot be determined from the claim or the instant specification because it is not clear if the specificity is defined by binding to a specific epitope, or to a protein from a particular species, or both.

Claims 40-43 are indefinite for being dependent from indefinite claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

9. Claims 39-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO99/58660 for those reasons of record in section 7 of Paper No. 13. Briefly, because the effective filing date of the instant application is awarded as 2/22/2000, WO99/58660 document is considered to be 102(a) art.

***Conclusion***

10. No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olga N. Chernyshev whose telephone number is (703) 305-1003. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9 AM to 5 PM ET.

Art Unit: 1646

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached on (703) 308-6564. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 782-9306 for regular communications and (703) 782-9307 for After Final communications.

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax center located in Crystal Mall 1 (CM1). The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)). NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by Applicant or Applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4556 or (703) 308-4242. If either of these numbers is out of service, please call the Group receptionist for an alternative number. Faxed draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (703) 308-0294. Official papers should NOT be faxed to (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Olga N. Chernyshev, Ph.D. *OC*  
June 6, 2003

  
JOHN ULM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1800